United Nations

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General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Sixth Committee

Organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the attention of the Sixth Committee to the following.

Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its second plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly allocated 17 items to the Sixth Committee. The list of these items, organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, is contained in the letter dated 19 September 2008 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, which has been circulated as a document of the Committee (A/C.6/63/1).

Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The following table lists the documents of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,[1] in accordance with requests of Member States.

[1] The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the sixty-third session. The list of documents is based on information available as at 19 September 2008.

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	Projected date of issuance
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	No advance documentation required
Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States [72]	
Note by the Secretariat (A/63/113)	Issued
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [73]	
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 54* (A/63/54)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General (A/63/260)	Issued
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-first session [74]	
Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/63/17)	Issued
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixtieth session [75]	
Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/63/10)	End of September
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [76]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/63/118)	Issued
A/63/118/Add.1	Early October
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [77]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/63/121)	Issued
A/63/121/Add.1	Early October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [78]	
Report of the Special Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/63/33)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/63/98)	Issued

	Projected date of issuance
Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/63/224)	Issued
The rule of law at the national and international levels [79]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/63/64)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/63/226)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 related to the Rule of Law Unit (A/63/154)	Issued
Letter dated 18 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/63/69-S/2008/270)	Issued
Letter dated 30 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/63/281-S/2008/431)	Issued
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [99]	
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/63/37)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/63/173)	Issued
A/63/173/Add.1	End of September
Report of the Secretary-General on assistance in implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism (A/63/89)	Issued
Letter dated 30 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/63/281-S/2008/431)	Issued
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [110] (adoption of a provisional programme of work for the sixty-fourth session) (resolution 58/316)	No advance documentation required
Programme planning [119]	
General Assembly resolutions 58/269 and 62/224	

	Projected date of issuance
Administration of justice at the United Nations [129]	
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 55* (A/63/55 and Add.1)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General (A/63/314)	End of September
Report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat: outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2006 and 2007 and statistics on the disposition of cases and work of the Panel of Counsel (A/63/211)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Ombudsman (A/63/283)	Issued
Letter dated 18 July 2008 from the President of the Administrative Tribunal addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/63/253)	Issued
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [150]	
Report of the Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/63/26)	Early November
Observer status for the South Centre in the General Assembly [151]	
Letter dated 19 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/63/141)	Issued
Observer status for the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation in the General Assembly [152]	
Letter dated 17 July from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/63/143)	Issued
Observer status for the University for Peace in the General Assembly [153]	
Letter dated 11 September 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/63/231)	Issued

Date for concluding the work of the Committee, order and approximate dates of consideration of items

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides:

> Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning

of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item.

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/316 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly, at its 62nd plenary meeting, on 6 December 2007, adopted a decision containing the provisional programme of work for the Sixth Committee for the sixty-third session of the Assembly (decision 62/517). The Bureau of the Sixth Committee, at its 1st meeting, reconsidered the provisional programme of work in the light of the allocation of new items to the Committee by the General Assembly, and prepared a slightly modified provisional programme, as contained in the subsequent paragraph.

6. The General Assembly, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, upon the recommendation of the General Committee (A/63/250, para. 11), fixed the target date of 14 November 2008 for the completion of the work of the Sixth Committee, which has also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the following work programme.

	Approximate dates of consideration
Sixth Committee (organization of work)	6 October
Administration of justice at the United Nations [129]	6 October and 5 November
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [99]	8, 9 and 24 October
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission [73]	10,13 and 24 October
The rule of law at the national and international levels [79]	13 and 14 October
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-first session [74]	20 October
Nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States [72]	21 October
Observer status for the South Centre in the General Assembly [151]	21 October
Observer status for the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation in the General Assembly [152]	21 October
Observer status for the University for Peace in the General Assembly [153]	21 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [78]	22 and 23 October
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [77]	23 October

	Approximate dates of consideration
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [76]	23 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixtieth session [75]	27 October-4 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [150]	14 November
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly [110] (adoption of a provisional programme of work for the sixty-fourth session (resolution 58/316))	14 November
Programme planning [119]	14 November
Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5]	14 November
In reserve	24 October, p.m. 5 November, a.m. 6 November 7 November, a.m.

Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations

7. Regarding agenda item 129, entitled "Administration of justice at the United Nations", the Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations, at its 2nd meeting, on 24 April 2008, decided to recommend that, at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee establish a working group with a view to finalizing its deliberations on the draft statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal as a priority, bearing in mind resolution 62/228, in which the General Assembly decided to establish a two-tier formal system of administration of justice as from 1 January 2009, and continue the discussion of the other legal aspects of the administration of justice at the United Nations. In the light of the above and following consultations by the Bureau, nine meetings, on 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 22 October, have been reserved for a working group on the administration of justice at the United Nations. The meeting on 9 October would be shared by the working group on the administration of justice at the United Nations and a working group on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

8. Concerning agenda item 99, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, at its 41st meeting, on 6 March 2008, decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continue to discuss the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In the light of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, contained in

paragraph 12 of its report,[2] and following consultations by the Bureau, a meeting on 9 October has been reserved for that purpose, which would be shared by the working group on the administration of justice at the United Nations. Also, a full meeting on 16 October has been reserved for the working group on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

9. Concerning agenda item 73, entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, at its 4th meeting, on 11 April 2008, bearing in mind paragraph 7 of resolution 62/63, reiterated the recommendation that the Sixth Committee, during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to continuing the consideration of the report (A/60/980) of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 59/300, focusing on its legal aspects, also taking into account the views expressed in the Ad Hoc Committee.[3] In the light of the above and following consultations by the Bureau, three meetings, on 14, 15 and 17 October, have been reserved for that purpose.

10. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee (see para. 13 below), any meetings for the working groups or for informal consultations will have to be accommodated within the overall meetings allocated to the Committee.

Deadline for submission of draft resolutions with financial implications

11. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. As 14 November has been fixed as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 6 above), 31 October 2008 would have to be considered the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications, except for draft resolutions concerning the items that will be considered after that date.

Conference resources available

12. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold no more 10 plenary meetings per week. Morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

13. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section through the Secretary of the Committee.

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/63/37).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 54* (A/63/54), para. 20.